in the offing for generating the employment during current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The National Common Minimum Programme envisages that a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment would be provided to begin with on asset creating public works every year to at least one able bodied person in every rural, urban poor and lower middle class household. In the interim, a massive food for work will be started. During the current financial year, a National Food for Work Programme has been introduced. The programme was launched on 14.11.2004 in 153 backward districts.

New Drug for Tuberculosis

160. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Scientists have achieved a major breakthrough in tuberculosis treatment by finding a new molecules to cure the disease;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it would help reduce treatment time from six to eight months to only two months;

(c) whether this is the world's first success in developing a new therapeutic molecule for tuberculosis; and

(d) if so, by when the drug developed from the new molecules would be available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In animal studies, the molecule in combination with other anti-TB drugs has reduced the treatment time from the present six to eight months to two months.

(c) and (d) It is not the world's first success. However, the present therapeutic molecule has been discovered after a gap of about four

decades. An Investigational New Drug (IND) application has been filed with Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). After the clearance of IND, the molecule will be taken through clinical studies of Phase I, II and III. If successful in these studies, the molecule will become a drug. These studies may take about 5 to 6 years.

New Meteorological Research Centres

161. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up new meteorological research centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government are paying heed to modernize the old meteorological centres; if so, the details on amount spent during the last three years of this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) In view of (a) does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government is paying the necessary attention to modernize the existing meteorological centres. The details of amount spent during the last three years on modernization are:—

Year	Plan (Rs. In Lakhs)
2001-02	2499
2002-03	2557
2003-04	2640

Products under NMITLI

162. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various products have been taken under the programme the New Millennium Initiative (NMITLI);